

# **Small Explorers (SMEX) and Missions of Opportunity Guidelines and Criteria for the Phase A Concept Study**

## **Amendment 1**

March 12, 2004

The plan for new technology and the plan for small business subcontracting (referred to in the Guidelines as the small disadvantaged businesses (SDB) plan) will no longer be separate evaluation criteria for the Phase A Concept Study Report (CSR).

Although no longer a separate evaluation criterion, the use of new technology will be a factor in the overall evaluation of science implementation merit and of technical, management, and cost feasibility including cost risk. The advantages (e.g., higher performance and/or lower cost) and disadvantages (e.g., higher technical risk) of any proposed new technology will be evaluated in the context of the overall feasibility of the proposed scientific investigation. Investigations dependent on new technology will not be penalized for risk provided that adequate plans are described to provide a reasonable back-up approach that will assure the success of the investigation within the proposed resources.

The investigation(s) that are selected to continue into Phase B are required to satisfy all Federal and NASA requirements for negotiating a subcontracting plan that includes subcontracting goals for small, small disadvantaged, women-owned, veteran-owned, and HUB Zone small business concerns. A subcontracting plan still needs to be submitted in conjunction with the Phase A CSR. During the evaluation of Phase A CSRs for technical, management, or cost feasibility, offerors will be evaluated on whether they provide maximum practicable opportunities for small business participation and on the extent of participation of small disadvantaged business concerns. The effect of the subcontracting plan on the technical, management, or cost feasibility of the proposed scientific investigation will also be evaluated. Upon selection for continuing into Phase B, the subcontracting plan will be negotiated by the Contracting Officer before the Phase B contract is awarded.

Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) is the only constituent of the "other factors" evaluation, and the impact of the proposed E/PO program on underrepresented populations remains an E/PO evaluation criterion.